

true American hero—in his everyday life as a police officer, as a member of the U.S. Air Force, a son and friend to so many—and in his final call to duty. Let us always remember and treasure the memory of this stalwart, brave man and honor him for his selfless commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MOUNT CHASE MAINE SESQUICENTENNIAL

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President. Today I commemorate the 150th anniversary of the town of Mount Chase, ME. Mount Chase was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today, and this is a time to celebrate the generations of hard-working and caring people who have made it such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

While this sesquicentennial marks Mount Chase's incorporation, the year 1864 was but one milestone in a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, the land surrounding Mt. Katahdin, Maine's highest peak, was the hunting and fishing grounds of the Penobscot and Maliseet tribes. In the 1830s, the first white settlers were drawn by the fertile soil, vast stands of timber, and fast-moving streams, and the young village became a center of the Maine North Woods lumber industry. The wealth produced by the forests and saw mills was invested in schools and churches to create a true community. The incorporated town that followed was named for the prominent mountain peak, Mt. Chase, which towers more than a half-mile above the farms and forests below.

The arrival of the railroads in the aftermath of the Civil War further secured Mount Chase's prominence in the lumber industry, and the town was home to the largest cold-storage plant on the line for wild game and other perishable food products. By the end of the 19th century, modern transportation and the region's spectacular scenery and abundant wildlife combined to create a new economic opportunity—great sporting camps and lodges that drew outdoor enthusiasts from around the world. Today, the people of Mount Chase continue to honor the strong land use traditions and love of the outdoors that have helped make such places as Shin Pond a favorite recreation destination for residents and visitors.

In the early 20th century, the history, industry, and beauty of the Mount Chase region were made immortal by the great Swedish-born artist Carl Sprinchorn, who spent many years at Shin Pond. From his paintings of the strenuous daily life of lumberjacks to his evocative landscapes, the artist recorded a very special time in Maine history and a place that remains special today.

This 150th anniversary is not just about something that is measured in calendar years, it is about human accomplishment, an occasion to celebrate the people who for generations have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a community. Thanks to those who came before, Mount Chase has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.●

HONORING DR. ROBERT COPE

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in honoring Lemhi County commissioner Dr. Robert Cope, who is retiring from the Lemhi County Commission after 14 years of exemplary service.

Cope is not one to shy away from challenges; he faces them head on. He recognizes a problem and works diligently to fix it. This characteristic has been instrumental in his ability to address critical natural resources and environmental challenges. The common sense, wisdom, and humor he brings often to contentious issues have been invaluable in achieving solutions. He is truly a pleasure to work with and know. Throughout his time as commissioner, we have greatly valued his input and approach. Through his efforts with the Idaho Roadless Rule, addressing noxious weed control and many other land management concerns, he has helped bring about solutions important both locally and nationally. He is well-respected as a problem solver and consensus builder.

His public service is shaped by his deep personal knowledge and influenced by his distinguished career. Cope, a U.S. Presidential Scholar and Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine graduate, thankfully fell in love with Idaho and made Salmon, Idaho, home. He has spent nearly 40 years in veterinary practice, a critical part of the community, working with Lemhi cattle ranchers. He has been counted on to work cattle at all hours of the day and night, often in difficult conditions. The respect many have for his work and understanding of natural resources issues has inevitably led to his service in leadership roles on numerous boards and commissions, including the National Association of Counties, the U.S. Forest Service's National Planning Rule Implementation Committee and the Idaho Roadless Commission.

We have greatly valued your insight, Dr. Cope, and thank you for your hard work and outstanding service. We are fortunate that you chose to be an Idahoan. Congratulations on your retirement from the commission. We hope it provides you with more time to spend with your many friends and family, including your wife, Terrie. We wish you all the best.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES R. COOPER

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in honoring James R. Cooper, who is retiring from the U.S. Department of Energy, DOE, where he was a great asset to Idaho during his tenure with the Idaho Operations Office.

Jim is retiring as deputy manager for the Idaho Cleanup Project. His responsibilities have included management of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste and the exhumation and disposal of cold-war era buried transuranic waste. His work advancing the environmental cleanup mission at the site has helped reduce risk to workers, the public, and the environment. It has also continued protection of the Snake River Plain Aquifer. Through his leadership, environmental cleanup projects have been finished ahead of schedule and under cost, which has enabled resources to be reinvested into furthering the cleanup efforts. Jim's commitment to timely and cost-effective management is commendable.

Prior to his position with the Idaho Cleanup Project, Jim worked as the facility and material disposition program manager and was responsible for ensuring the safe and compliant deactivation and decommissioning of nuclear test reactors and other retired nuclear facilities at the Idaho National Laboratory. During this time, he helped lead the cleanup team in successful deactivation and decommissioning projects at the Idaho Site. This included a visionary change in the approach of cleanup at the site.

Under Jim's management Idaho crews decontaminated and decommissioned more than 200 facilities. Recognizing this hard work, the Idaho contamination and decommissioning project was awarded the 2013 Secretary's Excellence and Achievement Award for completion of the project's work scope ahead of schedule and under budget. Jim is well respected for his strong leadership and ability to develop relationships and communications that are instrumental in advancing cleanup.

Thank you, Jim, for your more than 30 years of service, including 22 years of project management within DOE. You made great progress in the critical effort of cleanup. As you retire, you are truly leaving our State and Nation in better condition. Current and future generations will benefit from your hard work. You have much to be proud of for a job well done. Congratulations on your retirement. We thank you for your outstanding service and wish you all the best.●

REMEMBERING MOON WHEELER

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and legacy of former Idaho State Senator Ralph Merrill "Moon" Wheeler, Jr. His nearly 40 years of service to the people of Idaho will not be forgotten.